SeedFolks

Kim, Vietnamese, 9 years old

Wants to honor her father, a farmer whom she has never known, on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Early one cold April morning, she takes a thermos full of water, a spoon, and six dried lima beans to the rat infested, trash filled lot half a block from her house and begins to dig.

Ana, Caucasian, 82 years old

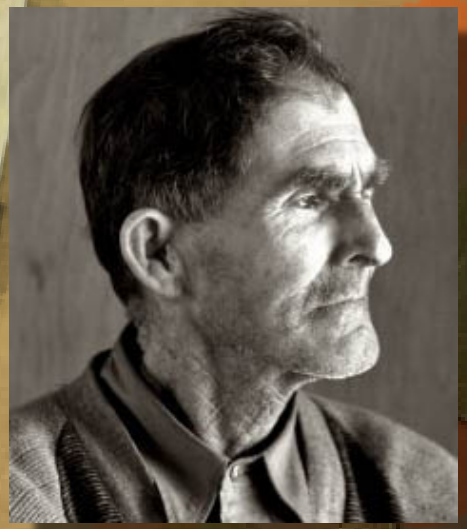
A woman who has lived her entire life on Gibb Street, and has watched the neighborhood from her window as it has transformed from a white working class neighborhood, to an area full of poverty, crime, and a mixture of cultures.

One morning she witnesses a young Asian girl digging in the vacant lot next to her house one morning in April. Fearing the child is burying drugs or money, she inadvertently destroys the girl's lima bean garden.

Wendell, Caucasian, Middle Aged

A grade school janitor who has lost his wife in a car accident, and his son in a neighborhood shooting.

Wendell is woken by an urgent phone call in mid-May from Ana who is concerned that the "Chinese" girl's lima beans are dying. After being caught in the act tending to the under-watered plants by Kim herself, he inspired to dig his own garden in another part of the lot.



Gonzalo, Guatemalan, 8th Grader

Immigrated to Cleveland with his father, and later joined my his mother, uncle, and brothers, he learned to speak English on the playground and by watching cartoons. Because he can speak English better than anyone else in his family, he often takes care of things that would normally fall to his parents, such as looking after his uncle.

One day, while watching cartoons, Uncle Juan escapes. After looking all over the neighborhood for him, he discovers him in front of the vacant lot gesturing to Wendell excitedly.

Tio Juan, Guatemalan

Once a farmer, he immigrated to Cleveland with his sister's family. Unable to speak Spanish or English, he depends on others to take care of him.

One day while out walking he comes across several people in a vacant lot working in a garden. Excited at the prospect of having something to do, he talks to his sister and asks her to pick up some seeds for him. He feels much more useful working in the garden.

Leona, African American, Middle Aged

A mother of two high schoolers.

One afternoon while walking home from the market, she comes across several people planting a garden in a trash filled vacant lot near her home. While she wishes to grow goldenrod in her own garden plot, so she can make tea like her grandmother used to, she knows that in order to get anything done, somebody will have to get rid of the trash. After this realization she goes on a crusade to rid the lot of its trash.

Sam, Caucasian, 78 years old

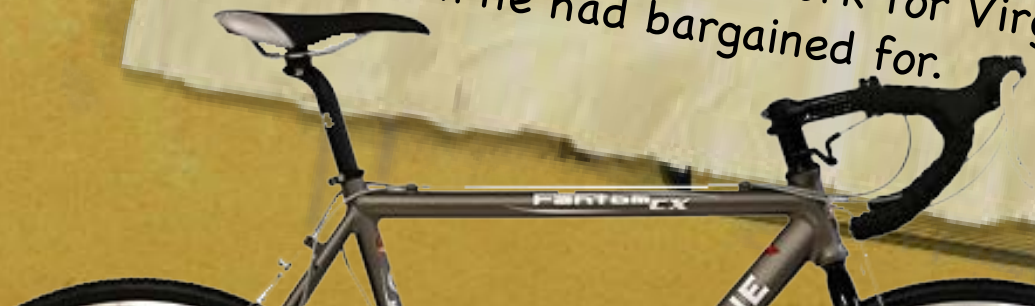
After many years as an activist for many causes, he has spent his retirement smiling at people who have been marginalized by society.

One day while out walking he sees a small crowd of people watching the trash filled vacant lot being cleared out by men from the local jail. Being too old to plant his own garden, he hires a teenage boy to dig and tend to a plot for him. Noticing that the lot has no water supply he sponsors a contest for local children to submit possible solutions to the problem.

Virgil, Haitian, former 5th Grader

The son of an ambitious Haitian taxi driver, Virgil wants nothing more than to enjoy his summer vacation.

On the last day of school, Virgil and his father are standing among the small crowd of people watching the lot being cleared. The next morning, he is woken up by his father at the crack of dawn to go and dig a garden plot. The plot quickly turns into six, as his father plans to grow and sell baby lettuce to local restaurants; but inexperience and bad luck soon cause a more work for Virgil than he had bargained for.



Sae Young, Korean, Middle Aged

After immigrating to Cleveland with her husband, the owner of a dry cleaning business. She is forced to take care of the business alone after he dies of a heart attack at the age of 37. After a violent robbery, she goes into hiding and has a hard time trusting strangers.

The garden becomes a way for her to reconnect with the world, and gives her a feeling that she has regained a family.

Curtis, African American, 28 years old

A former ladies man, who would do anything to get back the one who got away.

After many attempts to get the attention of his lost love, Curtis decides to grow her favorite tomatoes in the community garden across the street from her house. He does everything to protect the crop from poachers, even going as far as hiring an "armed" guard to protect them.

Royce, African American, 15 years old

Kicked out of his house by an abusive father, Royce has been sleeping in the community garden. After being hired to protect the garden he apprehends a thief, and is soon one of the most trusted and cared for members of the garden community; known for "anonymous" kind acts.

Nora & Mr. Myles, Nurse & Patient

Nora is the caretaker for Mr. Myles who has been unable to speak since his second stroke, and has become uninterested in the world around him.

One afternoon while walking him in his wheelchair, Nora and Mr. Myles pass the community garden. Mr. Myles shows the first signs of interest in anything. Shortly after Nora and Mr. Myles begin a flower garden in a trash barrel that he can reach while sitting in his wheelchair.

Maricela, Mexican American, 16 years old

A soon to be teenage mother, who resents being forced to have her baby.

After joining an outreach program for teen mothers, Maricela begins working in the garden. Even though she resists it at first, eventually she finds peace and comes to terms with her pregnancy during her time in the garden.

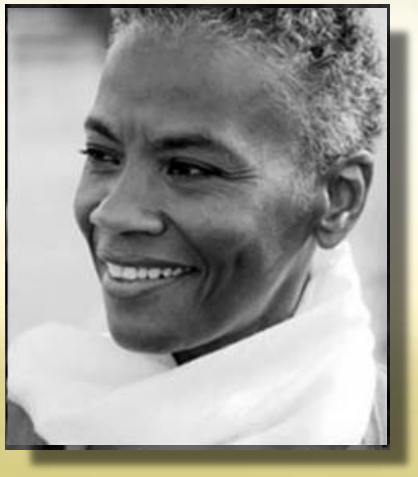
Amir, Indian

After immigrating to Cleveland almost 20 previous, Amir still does not know anything about his neighbors other than what he has guessed about them through stereotypes.

After planting vegetables in the garden, Amir is finally beginning to feel a sense of community.

Florence, African American

A woman with a long family history that she is proud of. Although Florence has no garden plot, through observation she feels she is an important part of the garden community, and makes poignant observations about the sadness of winter, and the promise of a new spring.



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